

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended): A process for the preparation of gamma-cyhalothrin comprising steps of:
 - a) chlorinating 1R *cis*-Z 3-(2-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoro-1-propenyl)-2,2-dimethyl cyclopropanecarboxylic acid to give 1R *cis*-Z 3-(2-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoro-1-propenyl)-2,2-dimethyl cyclopropanecarboxylic acid chloride; ~~and~~
 - b) esterifying 1R *cis*-Z 3-(2-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoro-1-propenyl)-2,2-dimethyl cyclopropanecarboxylic acid chloride with the (S)-cyanohydrin of 3-phenoxy benzaldehyde (III), thereby to form a reaction mass including gamma-cyhalothrin and HCl;
 - c) using a combination of physical methods and a sub-stoichiometric amount of a base to remove the HCl from said reaction mass.
2. Cancelled.
3. (Currently amended): A process according to claim 2 1 in which the base is added once the esterification reaction has been taken to greater than 50% completion using only physical removal of the HCl.
4. (Currently amended): A process according to claim 2 1 in which the base is an organic base selected from pyridine, alkylpyridines, quinoline, the trimethylether of triethanolamine or the mono-hydrochloride salt of DABCO, or an inorganic base selected from an alkali metal carbonate or bicarbonate or alkaline earth metal oxide, hydroxide or carbonate or a combination of an organic and an inorganic base.
5. (Original): A process according to claim 4 in which the base is a pyridine or an alkylpyridine.
6. (Currently amended): A process according to claim 2 1 in which the esterification reaction is carried out in a solvent selected from toluene, o-xylene, mixed xylenes or halobenzenes, for example fluorobenzene, hexane, cyclohexane, iso-hexane, heptane, octane or petroleum ethers.
7. (Original): A process according to claim 6 in which the solvent is hexane, cyclohexane, iso-hexane, heptane or octane.
8. (Currently amended): A process according to claim 2 1 in which the esterification reaction is carried out in a two-phase system in which one phase is an aqueous phase, optionally containing an organic base.